

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Agricultural Colony in Belene	DATE DISTR.	1 November 1955 25X1
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED			

25X1

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Until 1954 a concentration camp for political prisoners was located in Belene. At that time it was closed and nearly all of the prisoners were released. In the same year, however, 1-story masonry buildings and new wooden barracks were erected in the same area and an agricultural colony was created.

25X1

2. As soon as the project was completed, prisoners previously interned in various political prisons and condemned to long sentences for crimes of a serious nature were sent to Belene. In this colony, the prisoners are divided into three groups:

- a. Dangerous political prisoners;
- b. Less dangerous political prisoners; and
- c. Ordinary prisoners;

3. There were a total of 10,000 (sic) prisoners here. Work is obligatory and if completed in the time fixed by the norms the political prisoners receive 150 additional grams of bread per day. In addition to the additional bread ration, ordinary prisoners may earn a reduction in their sentence by half a day for each day's work. Very few, however, succeed in achieving the norm since the work is of a heavy agricultural nature and requires a certain amount of experience. [redacted] the political prisoners are treated in a brutal manner.

25X1

25X1

4. According to law, the families of political prisoners who reside in the Sofia area must leave their regular residence and move to Tutrakan, Nozarovo (N 43-38, E 26-50), or Bosna (N 43-58, E 26-58). Political prisoners who have served their sentences cannot return to their former places of residence but must move to the locality assigned them. They may have their families join them. These localities are always in places devoid of resources, without industries, where life is extremely hard because of the great difficulty in finding a job.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		USIA/IRI	X
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	----------	---

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT